

NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Block Island School

September 21, 2009

7:00 p.m.

The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Monday, September 21, 2009, in the media center of the Block Island School. Chair William Padien called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. The following members were present: Shea Butcher, Annie Hall, Sean McGarry, William Padien, and Richard Tretheway. Robert Hicks was also in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

A motion (McGarry, Butcher) to approve the minutes of the meetings held on August 17 and 24, 2009, as presented carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve the executive session minutes of the meeting held on August 17, 2009, as written carried with a vote of 5-0.

Reports

Mr. Hicks submitted a memo summarizing the CRP (Consolidated Resource Plan) and ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) grant applications and amounts awarded. He recently attended a workshop/training session on the weekly federal reporting

requirements for these funds. No report is required on funding less than \$25,000. Block Island School will receive \$25,774 for IDEA-B and will have to report on this grant only.

Mr. Hicks updated the School Committee on the staffing needs with the recent resignation of two teaching assistants. Dr. Anderson has reviewed the students' needs/schedules and feels that only one of the two positions will need to be filled at this time.

Mr. Hicks submitted information on the results of the NECAP science assessments for grades 4, 8, and 11. The tests are designed to measure content and skills that students are expected to have as they complete the K-4, 5-8, and 9-11 grade spans. Each test contains a mix of multiple choice, constructed-response questions, and an inquiry session that requires students to answer questions based on results of an actual scientific investigation. No scores are reported for groups smaller than ten students to avoid the possibility of deducing individual scores. Because our numbers in grades 8 and 11 were fewer than 10 students, no results are listed. He will give a more complete report at next month's meeting.

Old Business

Mr. Hicks forwarded a memo to the School Committee explaining that after his first contact with ARAMARK when he was told they were not interested in having Block Island School join the program due to small size and late date, he received a call the following week

indicating that there had been a misunderstanding and ARAMARK would like to have us join the state RFP. Since then ARAMARK has been very supportive and the regional manager spent the first day of school in our cafeteria. A point of service (POS) computer system will be installed, which will allow parents to fund their children's lunch accounts online. The \$9,000 cost of the POS system will be amortized over several years. Mr. Hicks introduced the new Food Service Director, Evan Turenne, who we interviewed and chose, but will be ARAMARK's employee. The food service helpers will remain district staff. The projected budget submitted with the ARAMARK proposal shows that the food program should cost the district approximately \$20,000 less than last year. Mr. Hicks assured everyone that meal prices would continue to be set by the School Committee. Given the new Rhode Island Nutrition Requirements (RINR), which are complicated and hard for one individual at a small site, the support for menu planning, and the POS computer system, Mr. Hicks recommended that the district join the state RFP with ARAMARK effective with the current school year. A motion (Tretheway, Butcher) to approve the superintendent's recommendation to join the state food service RFP with ARAMARK carried with a vote of 5-0.

New Business

Mr. Hicks reported that a request to waive the facility use fee was received from the Recreation Department and, currently, such requests are addressed on a case-by-case basis. He urged the

School Committee to standardize the procedure for waiving facility use fees to assure consistency and fairness in the decision-making process. Mr. Hicks submitted several examples for consideration, but requested that the School Committee hold a discussion on fees and standards for the Block Island community. A motion (Tretheway, Padien) to authorize the superintendent to develop wording to include in Policy DEA: Application for Use of School Facility and Conditions Controlling the Use of School Facilities carried with a vote of 5-0.

A listing of the fall/winter programs being sponsored by the Recreation Department was submitted for School Committee information. The Recreation Director has requested that the facility use fees for these programs be waived. Richard Tretheway suggested that the fee waiver request for badminton and volleyball be tabled until next meeting when there may be something sculpted for a fee structure. Sean McGarry stated that there should be a fee for the karate program as the gentleman is operating a business in the school's cafeteria. Annie Hall stated that he does provide a service to the island children who would not be able to participate in this type of program if he did not come to the island. A motion (Padien, Hall) to waive the facility use fees for karate, soccer, elementary/toddler time, youth basketball, and Friday night games carried with a vote of 4-1 with Sean McGarry voting in the negative.

Mr. Hicks submitted a memo regarding the early graduation requests received after the policy deadline (the end of grade 10) from Melissa

Conant and Megan Mitchell. Mr. Hicks had concerns about rejecting the request based on the time period specified in the policy because he could find no record that the policy had been communicated to parents and the policy gives no indication as to why that date is required. He stated that if the School Committee wishes to approve the requests the school can accommodate the two students. A motion (Padien, Tretheway) to waive the timeline provision in the early graduation policy for these two requests only carried with a vote of 5-0. Mr. Hicks gave no recommendation regarding the request for early graduation, stating that, absent a standard, it is not his place to judge whether this is the right choice, but would be a family decision. William Padien thanked the students for their letters explaining their reasons for the requests. A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve the requests for early graduation received from Melissa Conant and Megan Mitchell carried with a vote of 5-0. Mr. Padien instructed the superintendent to update the early graduation policy addressing the concerns about lack of standards as discussed this evening.

A motion (McGarry, Hall) to approve Kristine Monje's request for tuition reimbursement for two courses she wants to take towards her master's degree pursuant to the terms and conditions of the School Committee/Teachers' Contract carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Tretheway) to approve Kathleen Mello's request for a maternity leave for the second semester of the 2009-2010 school year carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Tretheway) to accept Rob Closter's resignation as assistant coach for the 6-8 soccer team carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Tretheway) to accept Toni Lemoine's notification of her retirement effective September 12, 2009, with regret and to send the appropriate letter of appreciation carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Butcher, Padien) to consent to the appointment of Rebecca Pappas as the assistant coach for the varsity soccer team carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Hall, Tretheway) to consent to the appointment of Chris Buol as the assistant coach for the 6-8 soccer team carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to appoint William Anderson as the adaptive physical education teacher until such time that a fully certified non-administrator is available for the position carried with a vote of 5-0. It was noted that Dr. Anderson will work three periods per week as the adaptive physical education teacher, which should fit in with his duties as special education director.

Mr. Hicks submitted a memo addressing the IRS adopted regulations regarding administration of 403(b) plans, which are retirement savings accounts for public and non-profit employees who elect to defer some salary on a pre-tax basis into a retirement savings plan.

He stated that most school districts have qualified plan administrators (QPA) develop and administer plan documents and perform the required tests to keep the district in compliance with the regulations, which make the district's management load easier. The Rhode Island Association of School Business Officials issued an RFP for a QPA on behalf of all districts and awarded it to CPI Qualified Plan Consultants. Mr. Hicks recommended that the district engage them for our compliance. A motion (Padien, Butcher) to have the superintendent engage CPI Qualified Plan Consultants to develop and administer our 403(b) plan carried with a vote of 5-0.

A resolution regarding opposition to mandatory binding arbitration on monetary matters for teachers as adopted by the East Greenwich Town Council was received. The Rhode Island Association of School Committee suggested that each school district do the same and offered proposed wording for a resolution. A motion (Padien, McGarry) to adopt and sign a resolution opposing binding arbitration as drafted by Tim Duffy, Executive Director of RIASC, carried with a vote of 5-0.

A brief discussion was held on the pros and cons of requiring school uniforms. Mr. Tretheway stated it was more of a request to update and enforce the dress code as currently listed in the student handbook. Mr. McGarry feels the current dress code is not enforced, but having a uniform dress code for students would take out the competition in clothing. It would also prevent students and faculty

members in a school environment from dressing inappropriately. Mr. Hicks reported that school committees have tremendous leeway and authority in dictating what can be worn. Annie Hall asked that a survey be sent home to families asking for input. Mr. Hicks will draft a survey for the committee's review at the next regular meeting.

Mr. Padien stated that, with budget time quickly approaching, it was time to start the negotiation process with the New Shoreham Teachers' Association as this is the third year of the contract. Mr. Tretheway stated that during the last negotiations he felt there were too many teachers attending the sessions. Various scenarios were discussed, but most felt that a small team representing each side would be best. Mr. Hicks will write to the Teachers' Association requesting the start of negotiations.

Calendar of Events

An interim meeting to discuss the administrative structure of the district is scheduled for Tuesday, September 29 at 7:00 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 19, 2009.

Correspondence

Various pieces of correspondence were forwarded for School Committee information, including information on Security-1, Inc.'s discontinuation of alarm services for commercial customers.

Executive Session

A motion (Padien, Hall) at 8:42 p.m. to go into executive session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws 42-46-4, 5(a)(2) for contract negotiations carried with a vote of 5-0.

Open Session

A motion (Padien, Hall) at 8:50 p.m. to return to open session carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, McGarry) to seal the minutes of the executive session carried with a vote of 5-0.

Adjournment

A motion (Padien, McGarry) at 8:50 p.m. to adjourn carried with a vote of 5-0.

Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk

Date approved: 10/19/2009